United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on Turkish Police Actions Against Women's Day Demonstrators

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Paul W. Jones to the Permanent Council, Vienna March 10, 2005

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

On the same subject, the United States was appalled by the footage of the police actions against demonstrators in Istanbul and we have expressed our concern to Turkish authorities.

The police reaction appears to have been disproportionate and inappropriate.

Government officials have promised to investigate and we urge them to do so immediately and transparently.

Turkey has made significant progress on important human rights initiatives and reforms. This incident underscores the need for Turkey to continue its efforts and ensure implementation of new legislation at all levels of government.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.